



E. William Gourd, Jr., Ph.D.  
1024 West Park Drive  
Midland, Michigan 48640

February 1, 2005

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
ATTN.: Michael Powell, Chairperson

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to take definitive action to prohibit the use of cellular telephones on commercial aircraft.

Air travel is already more than sufficiently unpleasant, given the interminable waits necessary in the name of security, the cramped seating quarters on aircraft, the necessity for passengers to breathe stale, bacteria-laden air, and food that poverty-stricken Indian peasants would spurn.

To add to this panoply of discomfort by forcing passengers to listen (on an airplane, there is no escape save to the lavatory) to other passengers mindlessly babbling away in stentorian tones to Aunt Sophie on their portable telephones would be to sanction torture. I can predict widespread outbreaks of violence on airplanes, as passengers attempt to smother such miscreants in their seats, using pillows provided by the airline.

I urge the Federal Communications Commission, posthaste, to prohibit use of cellular telephones on aircraft, without exception.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Gourd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Dr. William Gourd